MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION
CYCLE SAFETY INFO
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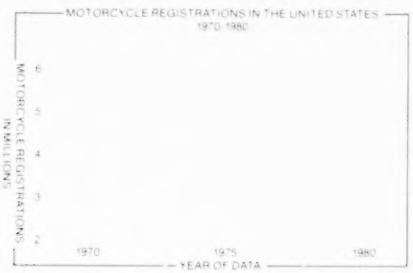
Motorcycle Statistics—1980

Each year the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the American Motorcyclist Association collect motorcycle registration, accident and fatality statistics from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The figures are obtained directly from the states; estimates are provided when actual figures aren't available.

In 1980, 5,681,479 motorcycles were registered in the U.S., 342,121 more than in 1979. This is the highest increase in one year since 1974.

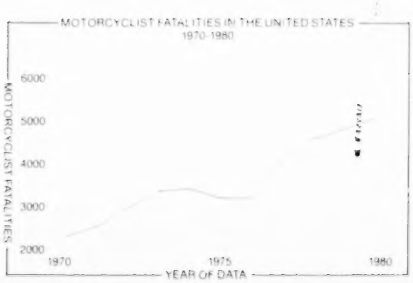
Since 1973 when there were 4,354,000, motorcycle registrations have increased by 30 percent. As the graph below shows, registrations have risen an average of 255,000 motorcycles per year for the past 10 years.



While registrations increased by six percent since last year, motorcycle accidents decreased half a percent in 1980. The total number of accidents in 1980 was 177,160 – down 824 since 1979. Motorcycle accidents had risen at an average of about 9,000 per year for the past 10 years. The ratio of accidents per 10,000 registrations decreased for the second year, declining from 333 accidents per 10,000 motorcycles in 1979 to 311.8 accidents per 10,000 motorcycles in 1980.

Motorcyclist fatalities increased by 5.1 percent to 5,097 in 1980, slightly less than the increase in motorcycle registrations. Over the past 10 years motorcyclist fatalities have risen by an average of 250 per year. Since 1975 fatalities have increased by an annual percentage of 9.53.

The motorcyclist fatalities per 10,000 registered motorcycles dropped slightly last year: 8.97 fatals per 10,000 motorcycles in 1980 compared to 9.08 fatals per 10,000 motorcycles in 1979.



ABOUT THE DATA

In making use of this data, keep in mind that some of the figures are MSF/AMA estimates, since some states didn't have accident figures available. Other figures provided by the states include vehicles besides motorcycles, such as mopeds, motorized tricycles or even snowmobiles. The amount of property damage necessary to have an accident show up in a police report varies from state to state. Accidents with only minor property damage often are not recorded at all.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION MEASURES

Both the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and the American Motorcyclist Association support the concepts of motorcycle rider education and quality licensing programs as motorcycle accident countermeasures. MSF and AMA also urge the voluntary use of helmets and other protective clothing to reduce injuries when an accident does happen.

In 1980, nearly 30,000 students throughout the United States graduated from rider education courses either meeting or exceeding MSF classroom, range and curriculum requirements.

A federally funded project began in 1980 in New York state to determine the accident reduction capabilities of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's *Motorcycle Rider Course (MRC)*. The riding records of cyclists graduating from *MRC* courses will be compared with those who receive no training or take a modified version of the *MRC*.

A federally funded research study in California has already shown the accident reducing potential of improved licensing and training. Results of the study showed a 14 to 21 percent reduction in motorcycle accidents for operators completing the comprehensive testing program.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's purpose is improving the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. To reduce motorcycle accidents and injuries the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and research. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. A national, private, nonprofit organization, MSF is sponsored by the five leading motorcycle manufacturers: Honda, Yamaha, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Harley-Davidson.

The American Motorcyclist Association is a nonprofit service and activity organization whose purpose is to pursue, promote and protect the interests of motorcyclists. Through its government relations and communications department, the AMA prepares news releases, makes public appearances and educates America's legislators about the realities of motorcycling. The AMA also offers individual members a monthly magazine and the opportunity to participate in annual road and competition events.

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1980 NATIONAL AND STATE STATISTICS

	Registrations	Reported Accidents	Accidents Per 10,000 Registrations	Fatalities	Fatalities Per 10,000 Registrations	Fatalities Per 100 Accidents
National						
1970	2,789,000	84,551	303.16	2,347	8.42	2.78
1975	4,939,580	144,249	292.03	3,243	6.57	2.25
1980	5,681,479	177,160	311.82	5,097	8.97	2.88
State Data—1980						
Alabama (1,5,6,15,20)	73,978	2,758	372.81	54	7.30	1.96
Alaska (2,11,15,20)	**10,651***	**301***	**282.60**	**15***	**14.08**	**4.98**
Arizona (11,16,20)	81,846	4,135	505.22	119	14.54	2.88
Arkansas (12,15,20)	34,106	1,125	329.85	38	11.14	3.38
California (1,12,15,20)	**737,774**	**24,554**	**332.81**	**816**	**11.06**	**3.32**
Colorado (10,15,20)	115,500*	2,970	257.14	69	5.97	2.32
Connecticut (12,15,20)	77,456	3,081*	397.77	115	14.85	3.73
Delaware (10,15,20)	**8,261**	**404**	**489.04**	**16**	**19.37**	**3.96**
District of Columbia (1-5,13,16,20)	5,339	397	743.58	1	1.87	.25
Florida (3,7,15,20)	197,541	12,992	657.69	231	11.69	1.78
Georgia (1,2,10,16,19)	**118,453**	**3,423**	**288.98**	**120**	**10.13**	**3.51**
Hawaii (5,11,15,20)	9,696	562	579.62	10	10.31	1.78
Idaho (4,10,15,20)	56,287	886	157.40	34	6.04	3.84
Illinois (1,10,15,20)	**289,436**	**7,894***	**272.74**	**229**	**7.91**	**2.90**
Indiana (5,9,15,19)	179,741	5,052	281.07	136	7.57	2.69
Iowa (2,10,15,20)	219,221	3,799	173.30	77	3.51	2.03
Kansas (1,11,15,20)	**92,218**	**2,133**	**231.30**	**56**	**6.07**	**2.63**
Kentucky (5,9,15,20)	62,057*	1,818*	292.96	64*	10.31	3.52
Louisiana (13,14,18,20)	75,000*	3,642	485.60	116	15.47	3.19
Maine (3,11,16,20)	**38,133**	**1,093**	**286.63**	**29**	**7.60**	**2.65**
Maryland (5,13,18,20)	74,250	4,546*	612.26	97	13.06	2.13
Massachusetts (9,15,20)	98,935*	4,026*	406.93	110	11.12	2.73
Michigan (1,2,4,9,15,20)	**254,129**	**6,561**	**258.18**	**148**	**5.82**	**2.26**
Minnesota (11,15,20)	157,815	3,308	209.61	121	7.67	3.66
Mississippi (4,10,15,20)	22,059*	593	268.82	31	14.05	5.23
Missouri (1-5,12,15,20)	**118,284**	**2,969**	**251.01**	**84**	**7.10**	**2.83**
Montana (7,15,20)	35,100*	580*	165.24	24	6.84	4.14
Nebraska (10,15,20)	52,149	1,536	294.54	36	6.90	2.34
Nevada (3,14,15,20)	**19,958**	**1,121**	**561.68**	**38**	**19.04**	**3.39**
New Hampshire (5,14,15,20)	44,815	1,006	224.48	33	4.44	3.28
New Jersey (10,16,20)	102,425*	4,100*	400.19	81*	7.91	1.98
New Mexico (1-4,7,15,20)	**50,576**	**1,769**	**349.77**	**66**	**13.05**	**3.73**
New York (1,12,15,20)	208,727	9,042	433.20	228	10.92	2.52
North Carolina (5,9,15,20)	114,615	2,982	260.18	82	7.15	2.75
North Dakota (12,15,20)	**29,613**	**411**	**138.79**	**15**	**5.07**	**3.65**
Ohio (8,15,20)	285,600*	8,299	290.58	227	7.95	2.74
Oklahoma (4,11,15,20)	125,380	2,051	163.58	90	7.18	4.39
Oregon (9,15,20)	**90,301**	**1,346**	**149.06**	**79**	**8.75**	**5.87**
Pennsylvania (13,15,20)	269,565	5,643	209.34	194	7.20	3.44
Rhode Island (1,13,15,20)	22,442*	545*	242.85	16	7.13	2.94
South Carolina (13,16,19)	**38,875**	**1,764**	**453.76**	**55**	**14.15**	**3.12**
South Dakota (1-4,12,15,20)	35,045	707	201.74	18	5.14	2.55
Tennessee (1-4,9,15,20)	84,121	3,033	360.55	88	10.46	2.90
Texas (1,3,4,10,15,20)	**310,000***	**11,578**	**373.48**	**378**	**12.19**	**3.26**
Utah (1,12,15,20)	63,153	1,319	208.86	44	6.97	3.34
Vermont (1,9,15,20)	23,293	419[17]	179.88	18	7.73	4.30
Virginia (14,15,20)	**80,518**	**2,840[17]**	**352.72**	**79**	**9.81**	**2.78**
Washington (11,15,20)	135,899	3,914[18]	288.01	124	9.12	3.17
West Virginia (1,10,15,20)	39,518	952	240.90	31	7.84	3.26
Wisconsin (1-4,12,15,20)	**191,725**	**4,823**	**251.56**	**106**	**5.53**	**2.20**
Wyoming (1,10,15,20)	19,900*	358	179.90	11	5.53	3.07

*Estimates

Footnotes

Registrations:
1. Includes mopeds or motorized cycles
2. Includes mopeds and "similar vehicles"
3. Includes tricycles
4. Includes mopeds, tricycles and scooters
5. Other

Accidents—Damage Threshold:
6. $0-$25-$50 property damage threshold
7. $100 property damage threshold
8. $150 property damage threshold
9. $200 property damage threshold
10. $250 property damage threshold
11. $300 property damage threshold
12. $400-$500 property damage threshold
13. No property damage figure specified
14. Other

Accidents—Description:
15. Accident listed as "property damage, personal injury or fatality"
16. Accident listed as "any reported motorcycle accident"
17. Only records accidents investigated by State Highway Patrol
18. Other

Fatalities:
19. Number of fatal accidents in which a motorcycle was involved
20. Number of motorcyclists and passengers fatally injured in a motorcycle accident

This information was assembled by the MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION and the AMERICAN MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION.